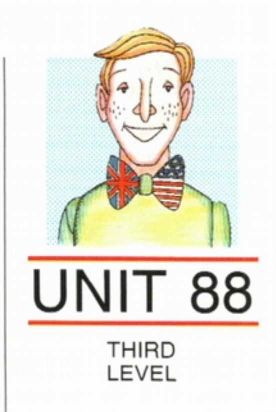
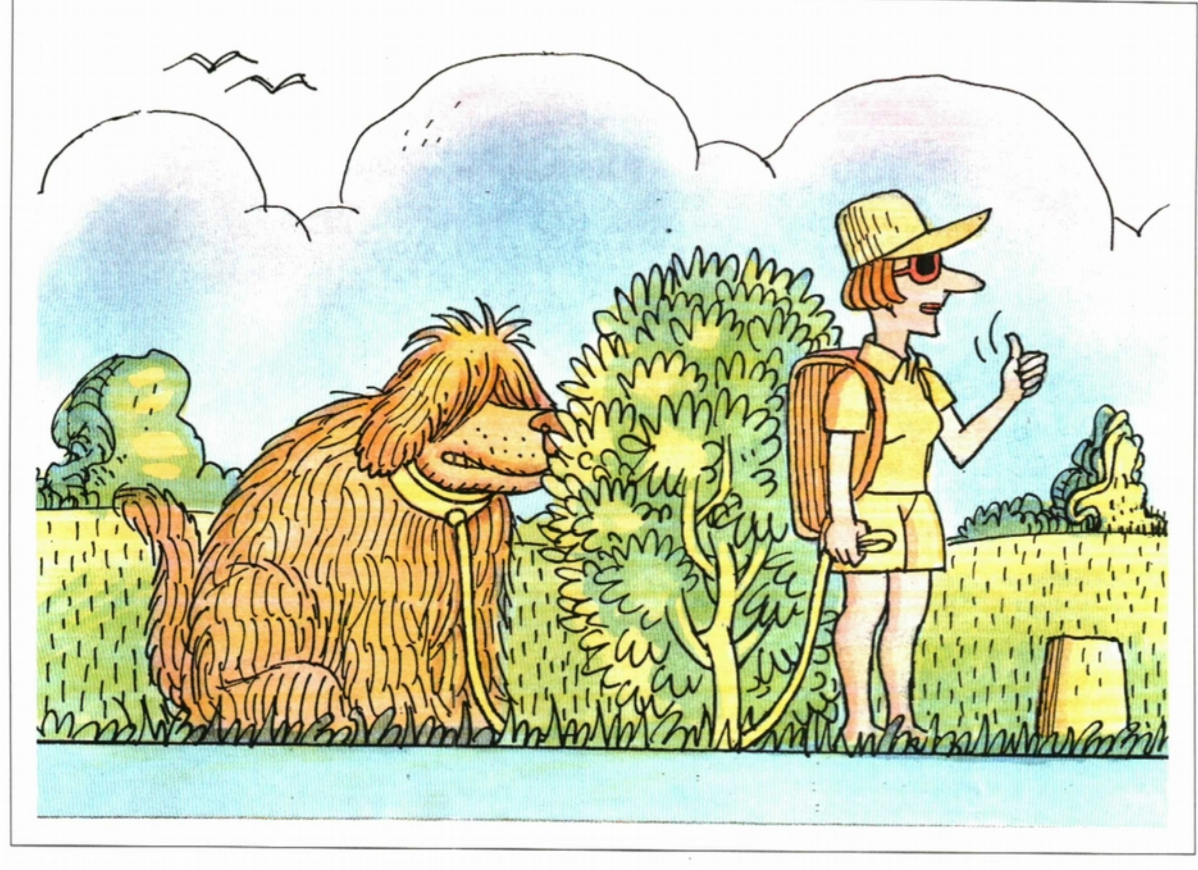
De viaje

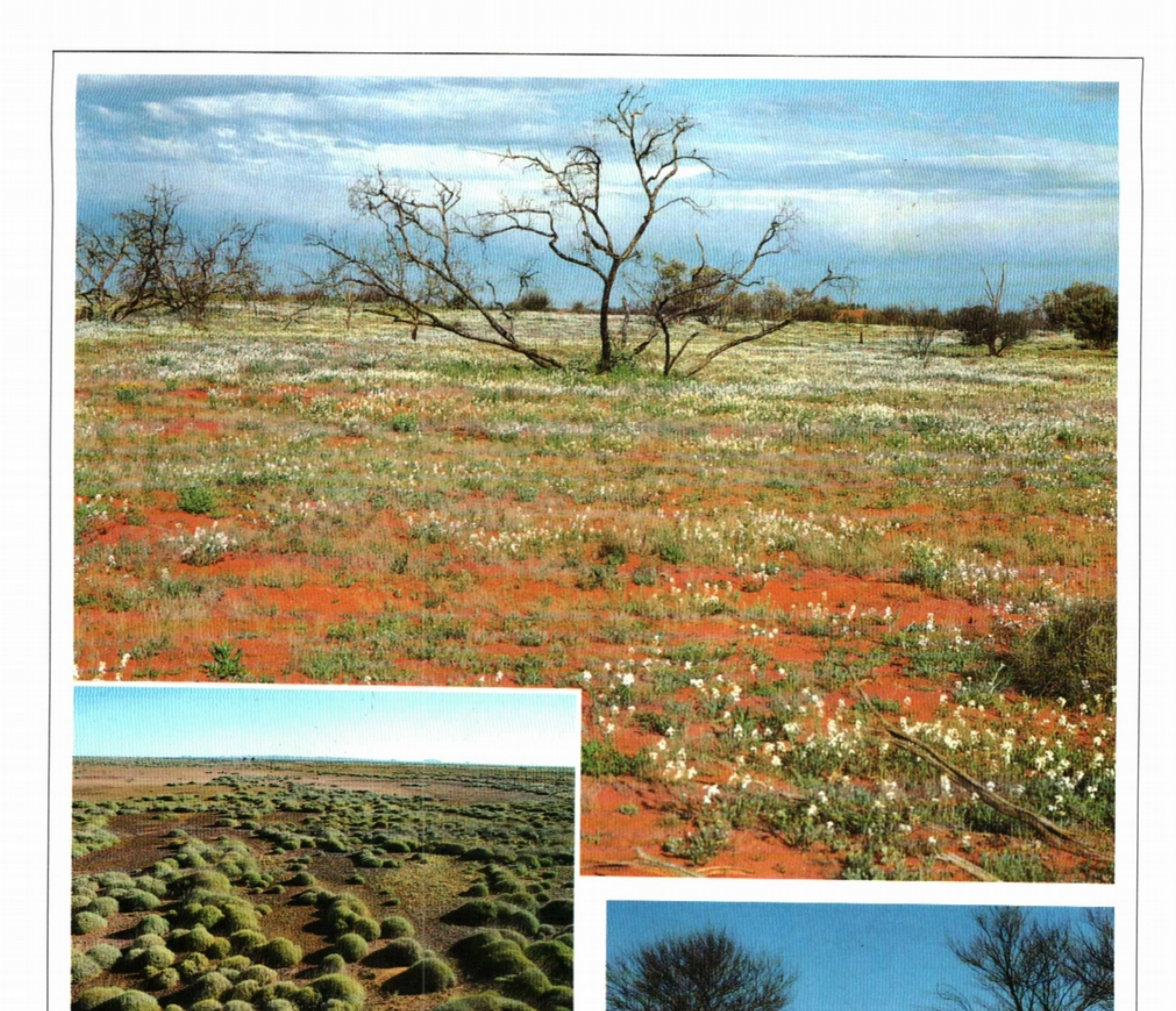
Muchos son los modos de encarar un viaje. Si decide utilizar la vía terrestre, lo puede efectuar en tren, en coche, tal vez remolcando una caravana, pedaleando una bicicleta y —¿por qué no?— incluso a pie. Y si el fin del viaje es la lectura del testamento de un pariente rico, cualquier medio es bueno: ¡lo importante es llegar a tiempo! Este es precisamente el motivo por el cual los personajes de la historia que va a leer corren a Penzance, pequeña ciudad costera de Cornualles, en el sudoeste de Gran Bretaña. Por un lado, podrá disfrutar el final sorprendente de la historia de una familia y de una herencia; por el otro, las situaciones presentadas le ofrecerán la oportunidad de ampliar su conocimiento de los verbos que rigen tanto el gerundio como el infinitivo, con particular atención sobre aquellos que modifican el significado de la frase, según se utilice preferentemente una u otra construcción. Por otra parte, como es habitual, este tema será profundizado en la sección Grammar.
La lectura lo llevará a Italia, con un fragmento tomado de 'Sea and Sardinia', del escritor inglés D. H. Lawrence, que en los años veinte permaneció durante largo tiempo en aquel país.



UNIT 88

THIRD LEVEL

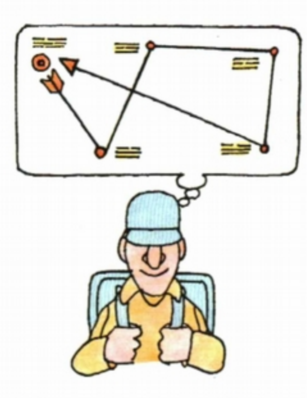




Australia Occidental, un desierto modelo

Para tener una primera idea de Australia Occidental puede bastar una simple constatación numérica. Este estado cubre una superficie de aproximadamente 2.500.000 kilómetros cuadrados, casi un tercio de la totalidad del territorio australiano; pero el número de sus habitantes llega sólo a 1.300.000, de los cuales casi un millón vive en la capital, Perth. Esto se explica con unas pocas consideraciones de carácter geográfico: la existencia de vastas superficies desérticas como Great Sandy Desert, Gibson Desert (en las fotos) o Great Victoria Desert, sembradas de lagos y lagunas casi completamente desecados. Sólo en la región costera sudoccidental las mayores precipitaciones y el clima más templado facilitan el desarrollo urbano y las actividades agrícolas.

Somewhere near Penzance



If you like travelling by car, there can't be mandy better ways of doing it than in a Rolls-Royce, like the couple in the first dialogue you're going to hear. But even if you've got a car as luxurious as a Rolls, it doesn't mean that you can ignore the rules of the road, and this, it seems, is a lesson which this particular driver doesn't appear to have learnt. After discovering that he has gone the wrong way, he decides to accelerate so that he can recuperate the time he has lost. On the way, he overtakes a car pulling a caravan, making it move onto the side of the road, and goes too close to some cyclists, making one of them fall off.

In the course of these unfortunate events, you'll come across a number of verbs and verbal phrases that are quite new to you: **to attempt, to propose, to intend** and **can't bear**. All of these actually belong to a group of verbs and expressions that can take either the gerund or the infinitive. If you'd like to check up on their meaning and how they are used before you start listening, all you have to do, of course, is take a quick look at the GRAMMAR section.

Apart from these, however, there are two phrasal verbs which are very useful when you're talking about travelling by car. The first is **to pull over**. As you may be able to guess from the context, it means more or less **to move over to the side of the road.** In this case, of course, the driver pulls over so that his girlfriend can ask the old man the way to Penzance, a beautiful seaside town in Cornwall. The second is **to put one's foot down**. Again, this shouldn't be too difficult to guess: it's a synonym of **to drive very fast**. Obviously, the reference is to the driver's right foot as it presses down on the accelerator pedal in order to pick up speed.



Rolling along the road

Somewhere between Redruth and Penzance, on a minor road, is a mad driver in a Rolls Royce, Richard, accompanied by his girlfriend, Barbara:

Why are you driving so fast, Richard? ___

I'm attempting to get to Penzance before the others do. I intend to see if I can persuade the lawyer to tell me what's in Grandfather's will. ___

You can't bear sharing money with anyone, can you? ___

No, I can't. I'm accustomed to living in luxury, and I don't propose to let any of the others get their hands on Grandfather's money now he's dead. Just think what would happen if it wasn't there any more. I'd have to sell the Rolls. I might even have to work! Oh, hell. ___

What's wrong now? ___

I think we've gone the wrong way. Hang on. I'll pull over here. Ask that old chap the way for me, Barbara. ___

Excuse me. ___

Yes? ___

Is this the way to Penzance? ___

Oh, no, dear. This is the way to Helston. You must have taken the wrong turning at Leedstown. You'll have to go back down this road the way you came, and turn left at the crossroads. That'll take you down to the A394. From there, all you need to do is follow the signposts. You can't go wrong. ___

Thank you. ___

Don't mention it, dear. ___

Damn. We'll never get there in time now. I'll have to put my foot down. ___

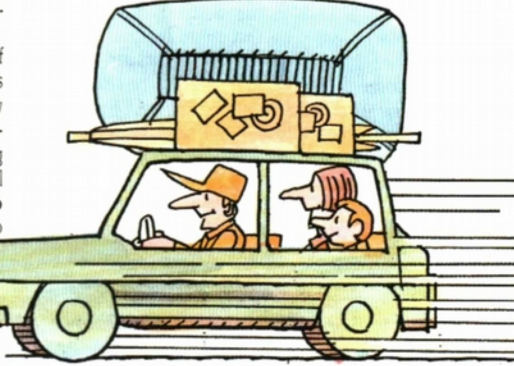
Watch out for those cyclists! ___

Hell. Why do they always ride two abreast? Now look. There's an enormous caravan in front. Come on, get out of the way. ___

Really, Richard. If you continue to drive like this we'll never get to Penzance alive. ___

Another couple of useful motoring terms are **turning** and **signpost**. A **turning** is basically a place where one road leaves another one, while a **signpost** is a sign which shows directions and distance. You can often find them, in fact, at **turnings**!

Finally, let's deal with the other points of vocabulary. A **will** is a document which is made by a person which says how they want their money and property to be divided after they die (this **will** is actually going to cause quite a lot of problems, as you'll discover!). And when you ride bicycles **two abreast** it means that you are riding next to another person, not in front of them or behind them. It's rather dangerous, but it's certainly not an excuse to get as angry and careless as the driver in this dialogue does!



UNIT 88



Try twisting your handlebars

When the driver of the Rolls passed the three cyclists, one of them, a girl, fell off her bike; although she isn't badly hurt, the bike is damaged:

Are you all right, Jane? ___
Yes. It's just a graze. ___
I'd like to get my hands on that maniac in the Rolls. ___
It's alright. Don't worry, Kevin. The bike doesn't look too good, though. ___
What's wrong with it? ___
The handlebars look a bit bent. ___
Hang on. Let's try twisting them round. ___
Be careful. ___
There you are. I'm not sure about that pedal, though. Have you got any spanners with you, James? ___
Yes. I've got some in the panniers. Hang on. I'll just get them out for you. There you are. Does that one fit? ___
No. It's a bit big. Have you got a smaller one? ___
Yes. Here you are. ___
That's perfect. Should be alright now. But I wouldn't put too much force on it if I were you. ___
I don't see how I can avoid it. There are quite a lot of hills between here and Penzance. ___
Try to use the lowest gears you can. ___
I'm doing that already. Do you think it'll hold out? ___
Yes, it should do. We'll take it to a bike shop when we get into town. Do you want me to carry some of your stuff for you? ___
No, don't worry. I should be okay. Thanks anyway. I just hope we get there in time to meet my father at the station. ___
Yes, we should do. ___

Pedals, panniers and spanners

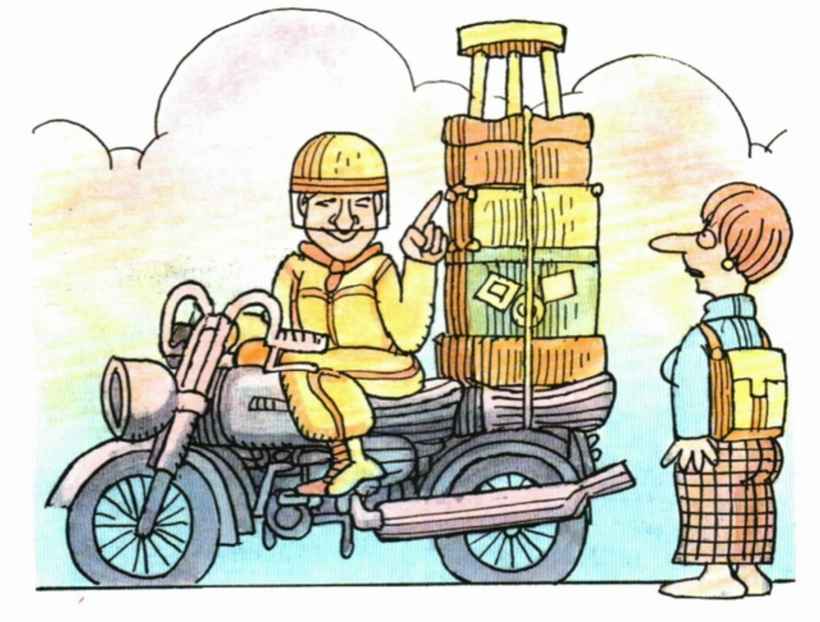
Let's leave Richard and Barbara as they zoom along to Penzance and go back to have a look at the disasters they left behind them. The first thing we encounter is the group of three cyclists Richard has just passed. One of them, a girl, has fallen off her bike, but fortunately she isn't hurt badly. The other two are her friends. Kevin and James, who are trying to repair the damage done to her bike by the fall.

There's another verb in this dialogue which can take either an infinitive or a gerund: **to try**. You can see it in action in these two sentences: **Let's try twisting them round; Try to use the lowest gears you can**. Look carefully at the way the verb is used. Can you work out why it is followed by a gerund in the first sentence and an infinitive in the second? If you have any problems, you can always look it up in the GRAMMAR section, of course.

Once again, there are some other verbs that crop up in the course of the dialogue which are rather useful. The first is a phrasal verb: **to get one's hands on someone**. This shouldn't cause you too many problems, because it's very similar to a Spanish expression. It means, of course, **to catch someone**. The next phrase comes up in Jane's sentence. **The bike doesn't look too good, though**. Here, of course, the verb **to look** has the sense of **to appear**. After the fall, Jane's bike has obviously received some damage.

While they're trying to repair it, Kevin suggests that they **twist** the handlebars **round**. Here, the verb **to twist** means **to turn** with your hands, and **round** is an adverb which means **with a circular movement**. And when Jane asks if the pedal will **hold out**, she wants to know if it will **last**, in spite of the fact that it is broken.

A **graze** is a surface wound which you get when you rub a part of your body against something hard, breaking the skin. **Handlebars** and **panniers** are both parts of a bicycle. You use the **handlebars** (it's almost always plural) to steer, while the **panniers** are attached to the back of the bicycle (one on either side of the wheel) and are used to carry things in. And a **spanner** is a kind of tool with jaws at both ends which is used for tightening and loosening nuts.



Only ten miles to walk



Richard, the mad driver in the Rolls, also caused some problems for the people in the car with the caravan which he overtook. When he went past them, he was so close that they had to move over onto the edge of the road, and at that point a nail went into one of the tyres. As a result, they get a puncture. Inside the car, John and Mary are talking about their eldest son, Max, when John realizes that he needs to change the wheel. But another surprise has yet to come.

In this dialogue, too, you'll find an expression which can be followed either by an infinitive or by a gerund: **sorry**. There is, in fact, quite a simple explanation for this. When the sentence in which **sorry** appears refers to the present, you have to use an infinitive. When it refers to the past, you have to use a gerund. You'll find this expression dealt with in detail in the GRAMMAR section, of course, along with a number of examples.

Apart from the use of **sorry**, the text shouldn't present you with too many difficulties. Of the new vocabulary, most is easily recognisable: **Youth Hostels**, for example, are large buildings which belong to an internacional organization for young people which allows them to stay in different places for very little money.

There are, however, two expressions which are new to you. The first is the phrasal verb **to get hold of**. John uses it to tell his wife to pick up the spanner and bring it with her, but in fact it has another meaning, much more common, which is simply that of **to obtain**.

The second is the expression **way out**. In this context, **way** is used metaphorically and refers not to the direction to be followed (this would be its literal meaning), but to the method to be used by John and Mary to get out of the awkward situation in which they find themselves.

Two lovely flat tyres

The Rolls also overtook a car pulling a caravan. Inside are a couple, John and Mary, their children, and John's father. They don't know it yet, but they're about to pay for Richard's lack of road manners. Listen and repeat:

What time is Max getting into Penzance tomorrow? ___

Well, he should be at the Youth Hostel tomorrow afternoon. We're picking him up there. ___

Don't you think your son's a bit mad walking all the way along the coast? ___

What do you mean, my son? He's your son, too, you know. Anyway, he should be alright. He's a responsible sort of boy. Uh-oh. ___

What's the problem, John? ___

I'm sorry to say we've got a puncture. I think it must have happened when that Rolls forced us onto the side of the road. Look, there's a nail in it. God, how I hate these people who think they own the road just because they've got a big car. ___

We have got a spare wheel, haven't we? ___

Oh, yes. But it's underneath the boot. I'll have to move all the stuff to get it out. ___

Come on. I'll give you a hand. ___

Here it is. Can you get hold of the spanner, Mary? ___

Which one? ___

That big one there. ___

This one? ___

Yes. That's it. Oh, no! ___

What's wrong? ___

The spare's got a puncture in it, too. Now, how the hell did that happen? I'm sure I checked it before I left. ___

Oh dear. What are we going to do? ___

I'll just have to get to the nearest phone and call a garage. Sorry to leave you here like this, love. But I can't see any other way out. ___

That's alright, John. Don't worry. Which way are you going to go? ___

I think I'll go that way. Leedstown's about ten miles, but it's the nearest place there is. Watch the kids till I get back. ___

Okay. Be careful. ___



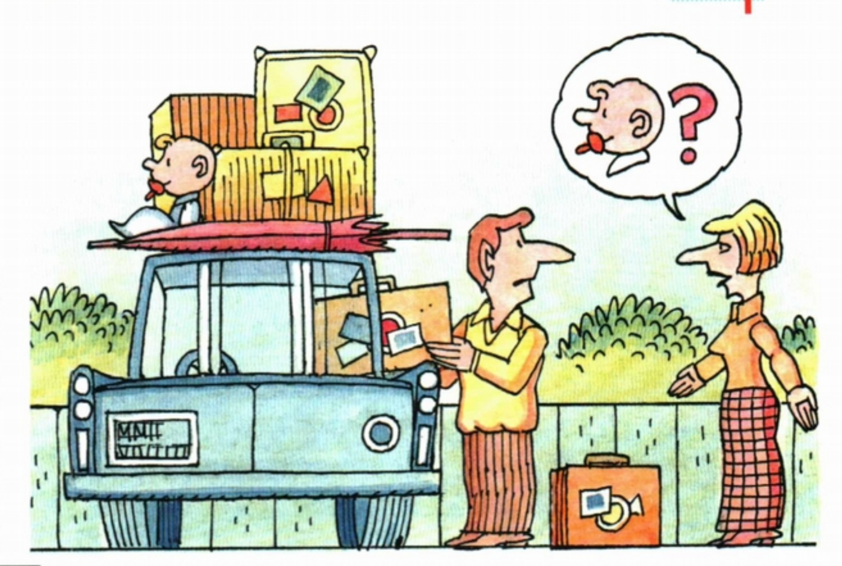
Perth: otra creación de los ingleses

Como la mayor parte de las ciudades australianas, Perth (en las fotos) fue fundada por los ingleses con el claro objetivo de prevenir la ocupación de este territorio por parte de otras potencias europeas. Y esto ocurrió incluso antes de estudiar la viabilidad económica de establecer un centro urbano a orillas del río Swan, a pocos kilómetros del océano Indico. Tanto es así que luego la ciudad quedó durante mucho tiempo retrasada en su desarrollo con respecto a las de la costa oriental. Hubo que esperar al hallazgo de filones auríferos, hacia 1880, en las proximidades de Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie, para que la atención general se volcase hacia el pobre territorio del Oeste. Desde entonces Perth incrementó su importancia en el campo agrícola e industrial, en parte también a causa de la oportuna llegada del ferrocarril transcontinental.





Beggars can't be choosers



Thanks to all the problems they had with the puncture, John and Mary actually get to Penzance rather late. With his wife, the children and his father all asleep in the car, John is desperately trying to find a caravan park which has some space where they can put the caravan for the night.

In this dialogue, you'll discover some verbs used with gerunds and infinitives once more, and this time they belong to a fairly small group which consists of just three verbs: **to watch, to see** and **to hear**. Look carefully at these sentences: **I heard him saying there were a few places left**; **I think I saw number fifteen leave this afternoon.** Why do you think the gerund is used after **to hear** in the first sentence and the infinitive is used after **to see** in the second? The answer, as always, can be found in the GRAMMAR section.

You'll find lots of useful vocabulary in the dialogue, too. **Place**, for example, which doesn't just refer to a geographical location, but also to a position that can be used for a particular purpose. So a place in a caravan park, as here, is an empty space where you can put a caravan. And talking of caravans, notice the term **eight-berth**. This is actually short for **eight-berth caravan**; a **berth** is a bed in a vehicle, particularly a boat, a ship or a caravan. So an **eight-berth caravan** is a caravan with eight beds, which is obviously fairly large.

Finally, there are some expressions related to **luck**, which is, of course, fortune. Mary's phrase **Any luck?**, then, is a way of asking John if he has been fortunate enough to find a place for them to put their caravan. And when the caravan park attendant tells John that he's **in luck**, he means, of course, that John is fortunate, because there is one place left. John's last sentence, **beggars can't be choosers**, is actually a little proverb connected with luck. A **beggar** is a person who asks for money or food in the street, at underground stations and so on. **Chooser**, of course, comes from the verb **to choose**, coupled with the ending *-er*; so a **chooser** is a person who chooses. In this situation, of course, John is desperate, as he knows there is very little chance of his finding another place, and that's why he compares his position to that of a beggar.

Sunnyside's up the road

After all their problems on the road, John and Mary get to Penzance late and have to hurry to find a place to park their caravan for the night:

Excuse me. ___
Yes? ___
Do you have any places? ___
Just one second. I'll have a look. No, I'm sorry to say we haven't ___
Ah, well. Do you know of anywhere else that might have a place. ___
Well, there might be a place at Sunnyside Caravan Park. The owner was here this afternoon and I heard him saying there were a few places left. It's a couple of miles up the road. But you'll have to hurry. There's no-one there after ten. ___
Okay. Thanks very much. ___

Any luck, John? ___
No, I'm afraid not, Mary. But there might be a place up the road a bit. Sunnyside Caravan Park, it's called. ___

Excuse me. ___
Yes? ___
You don't happen to have any places free, do you? ___
Well, I don't know. How big's your caravan? ___
It's an eight-berth. ___
Hang on a second. I think I saw number fifteen leave this afternoon. Yes, you're in luck. It's not really big enough for an eight-berth, but if you can get it in over there, between those trees, you're welcome. ___
Yes, yes. I think I can manage that. How much is it? ___
Eighteen pounds a night. ___
Eighteen pounds? God, that's a bit high, isn't it? ___
Sorry. I'm not the one who fixes the prices. ___
Ah, well. Beggars can't be choosers, I suppose. ___

Oh, what a rich grandfather!



In the next dialogue, you're going to hear Max speaking. He's the son of the couple with the caravan which you met in the SPEAKING section, and at the moment he's walking along the Cornish coast towards Penzance with some friends. As he goes along, he gives some rather interesting details about his rich grandfather.

This dialogue, however, also gives us the opportunity of looking at the way the letter *o* is pronounced in English. Go through the dialogue carefully, and underline *o* every time you come across it. Then try to work out how it is pronounced in each case. Sometimes you won't have any problem at all; you know by now how **come** is pronounced, for example. But at other times you might not be so sure. In cases like this, you might like to look back at Unit 44, where we dealt with most of the ways of pronouncing this letter. Then listen to the dialogue and check whether or not you were right.

Keep to the left!

There is one big difference between driving in the United Kingdom and driving in any other European country: in the UK, you have to drive on the left-hand side of the road, and not on the right. As you know, however, the word 'right' has another meaning: you can use it to say that something is correct. One particularly clever person (whose name is now lost in the mists of time) played on the two different meanings of the word to produce a rather comical little rhyme about driving in the UK, which is also rather puzzling at first sight. See if you can work it out:

The rule of the road is a paradox quite,
In riding or driving along;
If you go to the left you are sure to go right,
If you go to the right you go wrong!



Walking along the Cornish cliffs

In this dialogue, pay particular attention to the different ways in which the letter *o* is pronounced:

How far is it to Penzance?

About eight miles. It's pretty hard walking, though. We've got a couple of fairly steep hills befores we get there. We'll have to toil up those cliffs at Mousehole, for example. Then there's a bit of a climb at Lamorna. But it should be pretty easy after Tredavoe.

It shouldn't take too long, though, should it?

No, I don't think so. Why? Do you have to be there for any particular time?

I'd like to get there for about three, if possible. I've got to meet some relatives.

Is that what the phone call was about last night?

That's right. It was my uncle Leonard. Apparently, the whole family's coming down. They're meeting aboard my grandfather's yacht.

Your grandfather's got a yacht?

Yes. Well, it was his. He died a couple of months ago. He was very rich, you see. He owned Phoenix Breweries. And Poole Coate Distilleries. You know... the ones that make Chyandour Rum.

Oh, yes. My God! He must have had some money!

He did. It took the lawyers two months to sort everything out. Apparently the will's being read today. They're all going to be there — Cousin Richard and his girlfriend Barbara are coming from Weyborough, Mum and Dad should have arrived with their caravan yesterday, and Uncle Leonard's meeting Jane at the station. You know my cousin Jane, don't you? She's down here on a cycling holiday at the moment with a couple of friends.

And who's going to be getting all the money?

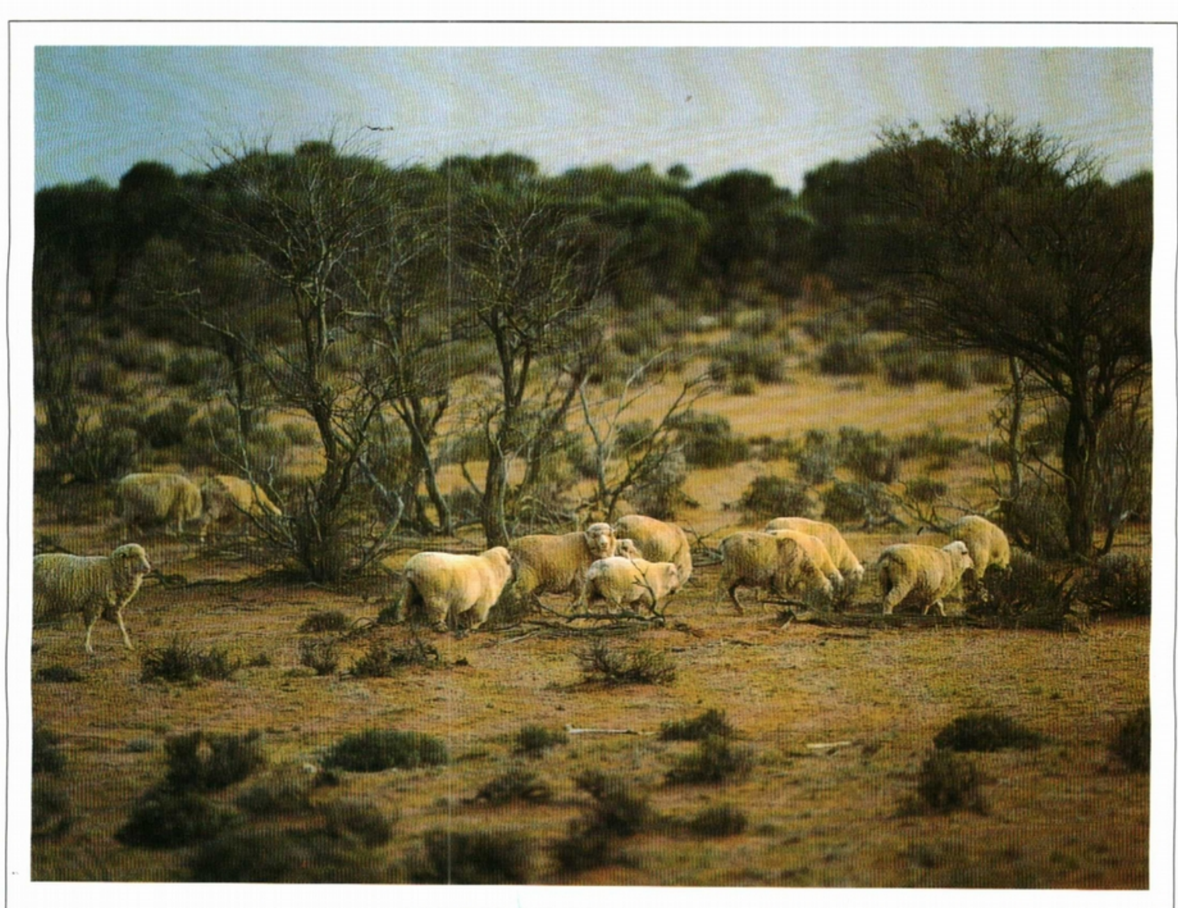
Well, technically, it ought to go to Richard — he's the son of our uncle Thomas, who died last year and was Granddad's eldest son. Granddad used to give him loads of money when he was alive. He drives about in a Rolls, but he doesn't work at all. He's a real pain in the neck. He thinks he's a playboy.

That sort of person gets all the luck.

He won't this time.

What do you mean?

Well, just before he died, Granddad told Mum he was leaving all his money to the poorest people in the family, because they're the ones who'll appreciate it most. He doesn't know it yet, but Richard won't be getting a penny.



Un suave manto de calor

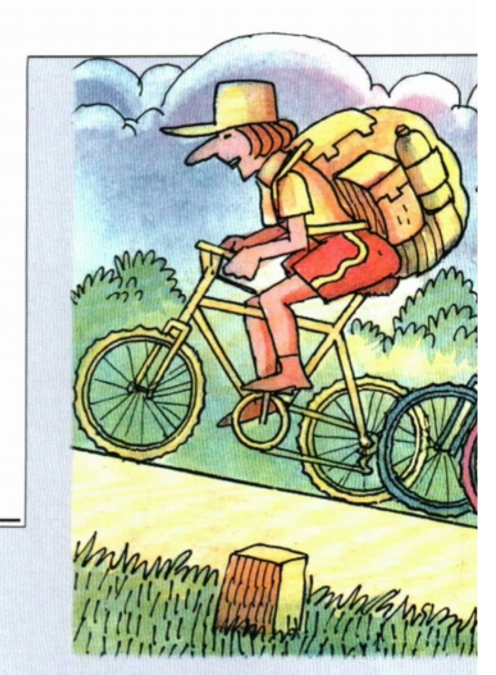
En un principio, la actividad más importante de los colonos australianos era la cría de ganado (sobre todo ovino): sin duda el modo más adecuado de explotar las inmensas praderas y estepas, demasiado áridas para permitir cultivos agrícolas. Incluso en la actualidad, cuando las obras de irrigación han mejorado mucho la fertilidad del suelo, gran parte del territorio agrícola sigue estando destinado al pastoreo. Además de la carne y de los derivados lácteos, el producto fundamental del sector zootécnico es la lana (un tercio de la producción mundial) y sobre todo la de las valiosas ovejas merino. En la foto de al lado se puede observar la delicada operación de la esquila, practicada con rasuradoras eléctricas con brazo articulado.



La última voluntad del abuelo

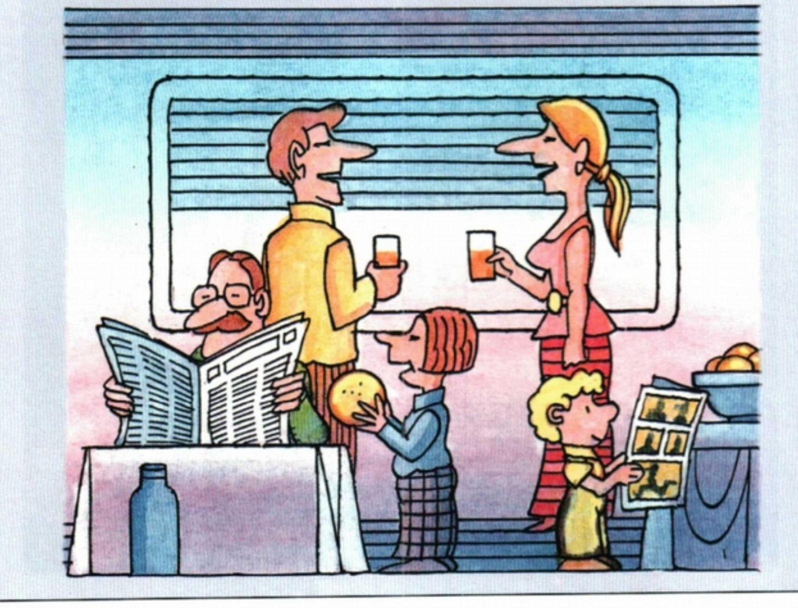
Y he aquí el esperado desenlace de la historia que ha venido siguiendo en las secciones SPEAKING y LISTENING. Todos los componentes de la familia han llegado finalmente a Penzance, la bellísima localidad de Cornualles donde se producirá la lectura del famoso testamento. En la primera conversación encontrará a John, Mary, sus hijos y el anciano padre de John a punto de dirigirse al yate del abuelo. En la segunda, Jane y sus dos amigos están llegando al puerto, con un poco de retraso pero sanos y salvos. En la tercera, toda la familia está en el puerto. El rico y mimado Richard ya está fantaseando con la forma en que gastará el dinero de la herencia, aunque, como usted ya sabe, le espera una sorpresa.

Pocos son los vocablos que desconoce: **tough**, adjetivo de varios significados, en este contexto quiere decir 'difícil'; **crew** es la tripulación de una nave; **gambling**, gerundio del verbo **to gamble**, indica el juego de azar; la expresión **on board** significa 'a bordo'. Finalmente, fíjese en la construcción impersonal con el verbo **to take** y el adverbio **long**: **It shouldn't take too long, should it?** Naturalmente se refiere al tiempo y corresponde al español 'No se tardará mucho, ¿verdad?'.



JOHN AND MARY GET READY TO GO

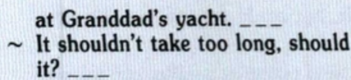
~ Hello Dad, hello kids. Where have you all been? ___
~ Ah, we've been for a walk along the coast. ___
~ Have you? And what do you think of Penzance? ___
~ It's really nice. The kids and I have just seen some yachts sailing across to Newlyn. ___
~ That's right, Daddy. And there's a lighthouse there, as well. ___
~ Is there? ___
~ Yes. And an island. ___
~ Perhaps we could go and have a look this afternoon. What do you think, Mary? Will there be time after that meeting aboard the yacht? ___
~ Oh, yes, I should think so. ___
~ It's not as if it's going to take very long, is it? The lawyers have just got to say that Richard's going to get all the money. ___
~ Well, actually it's not as simple as that. You see, there's something my father told me before he died... ___

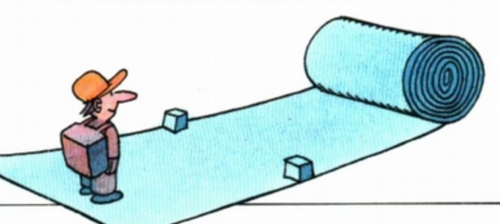


JANE ARRIVES BY BIKE

~ This is tough. ___
~ How much further to go before we reach the top? ___
~ Just a few hundred yards. ___
~ And Penzance is on the other side? ___
~ That's right. Try using a lower gear, Jane. ___
~ But I'm using the lowest gear I've got. ___
~ No, you're not. You're in third. ___
~ Am I? Oh, yes. Ah, that's a bit easier. ___
~ Come on. We'll be there in about half an hour. ___
~ Oh, good. That'll give me time to find my father. ___
~ It's a shame about that pedal. We could have been here yesterday if it hadn't broken. Did your father's train get in alright? ___
~ Oh, yes. I phoned him at the hotel last night. He was a bit worried about me. ___
~ I bet he was. What time are you supposed to be meeting him? ___
~ Oh, about half past eleven. He's waiting for me at the hotel. And then we've got to go down to the harbour to meet the others







How to get to Woeclingaceaster

The first real roads in Britain weren't built by Britons at all, but by the Romans. Although it is still possible to see the traces of many of the roads in a number of different places, there are four principal ones.

The first is Ermine Street, which was probably built in the third century. It goes from London (which the Romans called Londinium) to Lincoln. The name derives from Earningastroet, which is Saxon for 'the road to Earn's people'. The reference is to a tribe which settled near the road.

The Fosse Way also ended in Lincoln, but it came from the west of the country, starting in Axmouth and passing through the great Roman town of Bath. The name derives from the latin word 'fossa', which referred to the deep ditch to be found on either side of the road.

The Icknield Way, on the other hand, went from the source of the river Kennet, in Wiltshire, to the Wash, the great inlet of the North Sea near Lincolnshire. The name of this road remains a mystery.

But the greatest of all the Roman roads in Britain was Watling Street, which began at Dover, where most of the Roman legions arrived in Britain, and ran through Canterbury, London, St Albans, right up to the town of Wroxeter, on the river Severn. The road is called after the Old English name for St Albans, Woeclingaceaster.

RICHARD DREAMS HIS DREAMS

at Granddad's yacht. ___

~ It shouldn't take too long, should it? ___

~ No, I don't think so. My cousin Richard'll be getting all the money. At least, I think so. ___

~ Well, Barbara, what do you think of her? ___

~ Well, it's a splendid yacht, Richard. Do you intend to sell it? ___

~ Sell it? Good Lord, no. I'm going to keep it. Why should I sell it? ___

~ Well, I didn't think you liked sailing. ___

~ Oh, no. I love sailing. It's all the hard work that goes with it that I don't like. But there's a crew on board this yacht, so I won't have to do a thing, will I? ___

~ No, I suppose you won't. Just relax and let all the money roll in. ___

~ Just think, Barbara. We could go to St Tropez... or Sanremo. Or Monte Carlo... that would be nice... I fancy a bit of gambling... perhaps we could leave this afternoon... ___

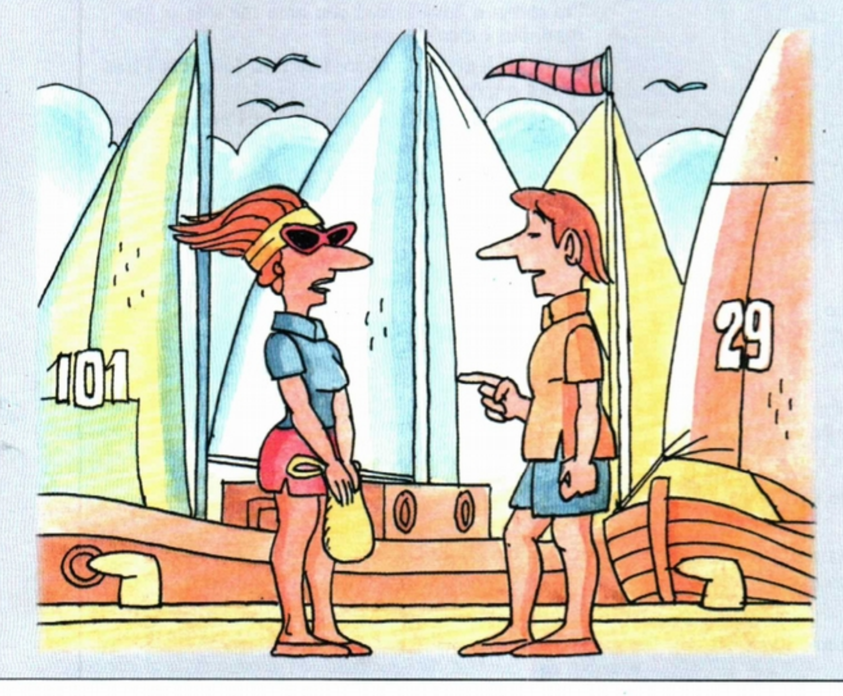
~ Richard. ___

~ Yes? ___

~ Sorry to disturb your dream, but who are all those people? They seem to be coming this way. ___

~ Oh, Lord. It's all my poor relatives. There's Uncle John and Auntie Mary... and Uncle Leonard and Cousin Jane... And Cousin Max. They'll all be after my money, I suppose. But they're not going to get any. ___

~ But if you're so sure your grandfather didn't leave them anything, why are they all so happy? ___



¿El infinitivo y el gerundio pueden cambiar el significado del verbo?

Cuando las dos construcciones son indistintas

Hemos visto que algunos verbos ingleses van seguidos por el gerundio más frecuentemente que por el infinitivo (con o sin **to**), pero existen otros que admiten ambas construcciones. Algunos de ellos, como por ejemplo **to forget**, **to remember** y **to go on**, ya han sido tratados (Unidades 72 y 74). Al mismo grupo pertenecen los verbos **to attempt** (intentar), **to propose** (proponer), **to intend** (pretender), **to continue** (continuar) y la expresión **can't bear** (no poder soportar). Estos verbos pueden ir seguidos por el gerundio o por el infinitivo sin que esto implique importantes cambios de significado. No obstante, es oportuno señalar que con los verbos **to attempt**, **to propose** y **to intend** el uso del infinitivo es más frecuente. Observe los ejemplos:

I'm attempting to get (getting) to Penzance before the others do.

I don't propose to let (letting) any of the others get their hands on Grandfather's money now he's dead.

I intend to see (seeing) if I can persuade the lawyer to tell me what's in Grandfather's will.

If you continue driving (to drive) like this we'll never get to Provenze alive.

You can't bear sharing (to share) money with anyone, can you?



Si la construcción cambia el significado

Algunos verbos que rigen tanto el gerundio como el infinitivo confieren a la frase diferentes matices de significado según se utilice una construcción u otra. He aquí los principales.

El verbo to try. En su acepción principal de 'probar', 'intentar', 'hacer un esfuerzo', este verbo va seguido por el infinitivo:

Try to use the lowest gears you can.

Please try to understand what a terrible situation I am in.

Cuando va seguido por el gerundio, **to try** toma el significado de 'probar' en el sentido de 'hacer una tentativa, un experimento':

Let's try twisting them round.

I tried selling the Rolls but nobody seemed to be interested.

Los verbos to watch, to see y to hear. Cuando estos verbos van seguidos por el infinitivo (sin el **to**), significa que la acción ha sido percibida totalmente, desde el comienzo hasta el final.

She watched her husband change the wheel.

I think I saw number fifteen leave this afternoon.

I heard him sing at the concert.

En cambio, si van acompañados por el gerundio, se quiere indicar que se ha asistido a la acción mientras ésta ya estaba en curso y se ha percibido sólo una parte:

I watched the kids playing near the campsite.

From the motorway I saw three cyclists mending a bycicle.

I heard her singing in the bath.

La expresión to be sorry. Cuando se usa para introducir otra oración, esta expresión puede regir el infinitivo presente, el infinitivo pasado, las preposiciones **for** o **about** seguidas por el gerundio, o bien la conjunción **that**, que en el inglés informal a menudo es omitida. También el verbo **to be** a veces queda sobreentendido. Sólo se usa la primera de estas construcciones, es decir aquella con el infinitivo presente, para excusarse a propósito de algo que se está haciendo o se está a punto de hacer en el momento en que se habla:

I'm sorry to say we've got a puncture.

I'm sorry to say we haven't got any places left.

Sorry to disturb you, sir, but could you tell me the way to Penzance?

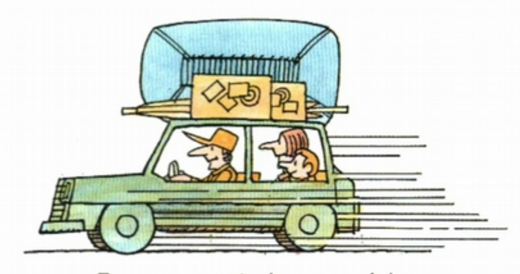
En cambio, las construciones con el infinitivo pasado, con las preposiciones **for** o **about** seguidas por el gerundio y con la conjunción **that** se refieren a algo que ha sucedido o que ha sido realizado en el pasado:

I'm sorry to have forced you onto the side of the road, but I didn't see you.

Sorry for leaving you here like this, love, but I had to call a garage.

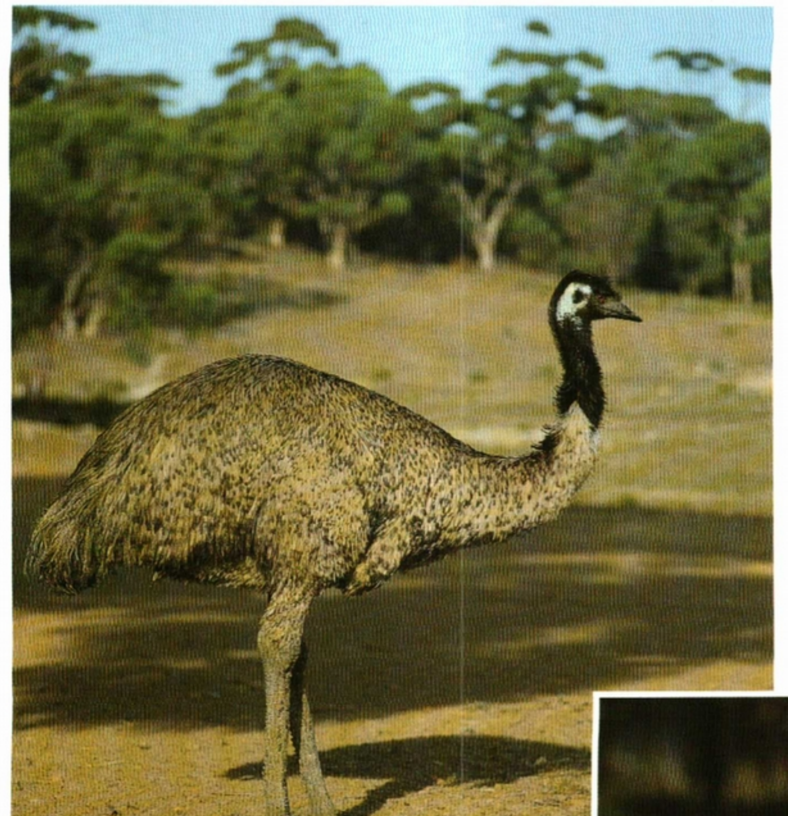
I'm sorry about waking you up, but I needed some money to pay for the campsite.

I'm sorry (that) I called you last night, but I had a puncture and there was no other garage in the phone book.



En esta sección ha aprendido:

- verbos que rigen indistintamente el gerundio o el infinitivo;
- verbos que cambian de significado con el gerundio o el infinitivo.



Lejos del mundo viven extraños animales

Tal vez las imágenes más características de Australia sean las de los animales. En efecto, el conjunto de su fauna es muy singular y no se la puede comparar con la de ningún otro país. Esto se debe al precoz desprendimiento de este territorio de los otros continentes, de modo tal que a partir de un cierto momento su historia evolutiva se desarrolló en forma totalmente autónoma. Entre los resultados más notables de este proceso está el canguro (abajo a la derecha), tímido marsupial y saltador formidable. Entre las aves, la más característica es el emú (al lado), avestruz australiano de carrera muy veloz. Finalmente, ejemplos notables se encuentran también entre los reptiles, como el varano (abajo a la izquierda).





UNIT 88

En automóvil, por toda Italia

En 1911, el joven escritor inglés David Herbert Lawrence (1885-1930) partió de Inglaterra para emprender una serie de largos viajes que ocuparon gran parte de su vida. Uno de los primeros países que visitó, y por el cual se sentía especialmente atraído, fue Italia: tierra seductora, según su parecer, por la riqueza de sus paisajes y por la fuerte presencia del instinto en la naturaleza de sus habitantes.

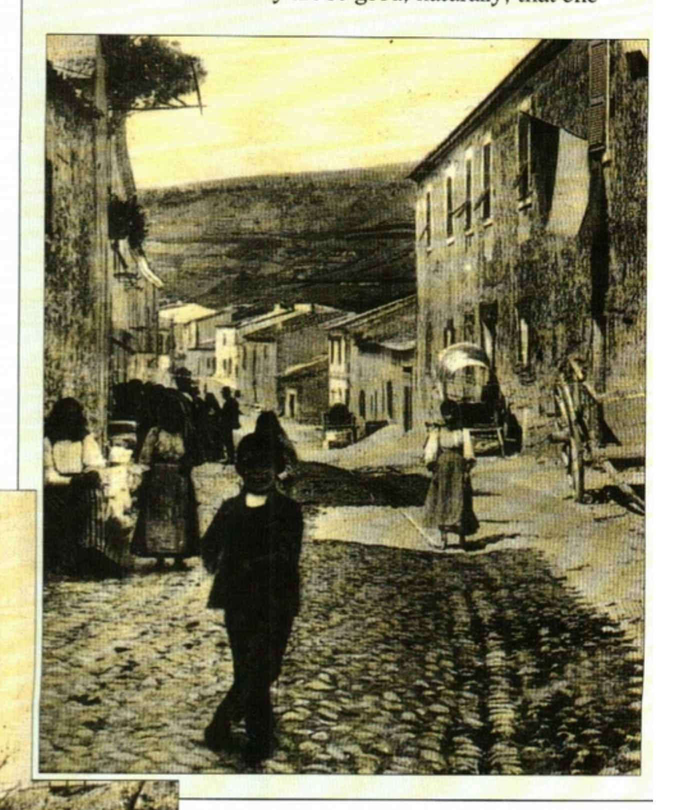
De estas estancias surgieron algunos relatos de viaje que constituyen un filón totalmente autónomo en la obra del autor, muy distante de novelas audaces como **'Sons and Lovers'** (1913) y **'Lady Chatterley's lover'** (1928). En **'Sea and Sardinia'**, publicado en 1921, la ciega admiración de Lawrence por Italia se percibe en cada página: lo podrá comprobar leyendo el fragmento que le presentamos. A lo largo de los caminos mediterráneos, hasta la tortuosidad y la aspereza de las calles le parecen síntomas de una perfecta armonía entre hombres y paisaje. Bajo su mirada asombrada y extasiada, los coches y sus conductores se mueven con extrema desenvoltura, como si fuesen parte del mundo animado.

Las imágenes que acompañan el texto muestran algunas calles de Cerdeña a principios de este siglo.



These automobiles in Italy are splendid. They take the steep, looping[1] roads so easily, they seem to run so naturally[2]. And this one[3] was comfortable too.

The roads of Italy always impress me. They run undaunted[4] over the most precipitous[5] regions, and with curious ease. In England almost any such road[6], among the mountains at least, would be labelled[7] three times dangerous and would be famous throughout the land[8] as an impossible climb[9]. Here it is nothing. Up and down they go, swinging about[10] with complete sang-froid[11]. There seems to have been no effort[12] in their construction. They are so good, naturally, that one



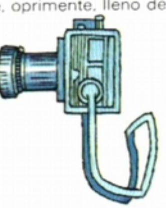
1. **Steep, looping:** empinadas, tortuosas.
2. **So naturally:** de modo tan natural. A Lawrence el paisaje italiano le parece 'natural' en su conjunto, incluidas las obras humanas.
3. **And this one:** se refiere al coche en el que está viajando.
4. **They run undaunted:** continúan impertérritas.
5. **Precipitous:** difíciles, ásperas, inaccesibles.
6. **Any such road:** cualquier carretera de este tipo.
7. **Labelled:** clasificada como.

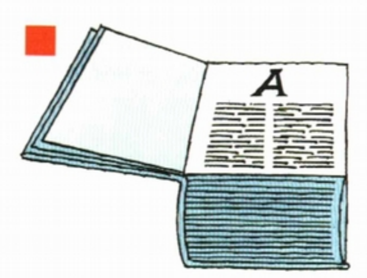
hardly notices[13] what splendid gestures[14] they represent. *Of course, the surface[15] is now often intolerably[16] bad.* And they are most of them roads which[17], with ten years' neglect[18], will become ruins[19]. For they are cut through overhanging[20] rock and scooped out[21] of the sides of hills. But I think it is marvellous how the Italians have penetrated all their inaccessible[22] regions, of which they have so many, with great high-roads[23]: and how along these high-roads the omnibuses[24] now keep up[25] a perfect communication[26]. The precipitous and craggily-involved land[27] is threaded through and through[28] with roads. There seems to be a passion for high-roads and for constant communication. In this the *Italians have a real Roman instinct, now.* For[29] the roads are new.

The railways, too, go piercing[30] through rock for miles and miles, and nobody thinks anything of it. The coast railway of Calabria, down to Reggio, would make us stand on our heads[31] if we had it in England. Here it is a matter of course[32]. In the same way I always have a profound admiration for their driving[33] – whether[34] of a great omnibus or of a motor-car. It all seems so easy, as if the man were part of the car. There is none[35] of that beastly, grinding, uneasy[36] feeling one has in the north.



8. **Throughout the land:** en todo el país.
9. **Climb:** subida, pendiente.
10. **Swinging about:** oscilando por doquier; se refiere siempre a los caminos, describiéndolos como si fuesen elementos vivientes del paisaje.
11. **Sang-froid:** sangre fría; es una expresión tomada del francés y ya de uso corriente en inglés.
12. **No effort:** ningún esfuerzo.
13. **Hardly notices:** apenas nota.
14. **Gestures:** empresas, gestas.
15. **Surface:** superficie; se refiere evidentemente a la calzada.
16. **Intolerably:** intolerablemente.
17. **They are most of them roads which:** la mayor parte son carreteras que.
18. **Neglect:** negligencia, descuido.
19. **Ruins:** ruinas.
20. **Overhanging:** salientes.
21. **Scooped out:** excavadas.
22. **Inaccesible:** inaccesible.
23. **Hight-roads:** carreteras principales.
24. **Omnibuses:** autobús.
25. **Keep up:** mantienen.
26. **Communication:** conexión.
27. **Craggily-involved land:** región rocosa.
28. **Threaded through and through:** completamente entretejida.
29. **For:** aquí no es una preposición sino una conjunción, y significa 'ya que', 'dado que'.
30. **Piercing:** perforando.
31. **Would make us stand on our heads:** corresponde más o menos a la expresión española 'nos pondría los pelos de punta'.
32. **A matter of course:** una cosa natural.
33. **For their driving:** por el modo en que conducen. A los ojos de Lawrence, los italianos conducen con tanta confianza que forman una unidad con sus automóviles.
34. **Whether:** ya sea (que se trate).
35. **None:** nada.
36. **Beastly, grinding, uneasy:** terrible, oprimente, lleno de ansia.





(to) accelerate	acelerar
(to) appreciate	apreciar
(to) attemp (to)	intentar
be accustomed to	estar acostumbrado a
beggar	mendigo
bent	torcido, doblado
caravan	caravana
crew	tripulación
damage	daño
(to) fall off	caer
(to) fit	estar adaptado a, hacer juego
gambling	jugar a juegos de azar, juego de azar
(to) get hold of	tomar, obtener
graze	ligera excoriación
handlebars	manillar
(to) hold out	sostener, durar
(to) intend	pretender
lack	falta
(to) loosen	aflojar, disminuir
luxurious	lujoso
motoring	automovilístico
nut	tuerca
pannier	canasta de las bicicletas
(to) propose	proponer
(to) recuperate	recuperar
road manners	los buenos modales de un automovilista

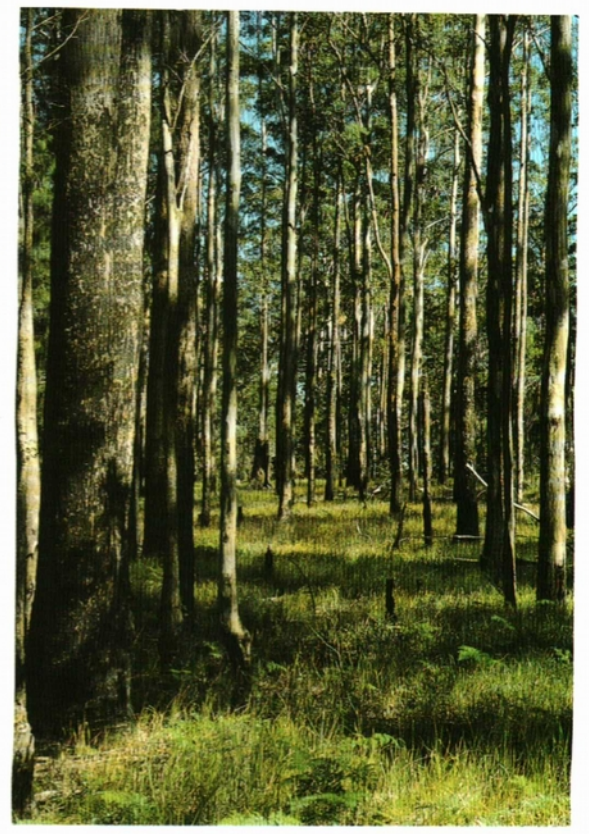
Paseando en bicicleta

any luck?	¿has tenido suerte?
beggars can't be choosers	quien mendiga no escoge
I can't bear...	no puedo soportar...
(to) get one's hands on someone	ponerle a alguien las manos encima
it doesn't look too good	no parece estar en buenas condiciones
keep to the left	mantén la izquierda
(to) pull over	acercarse
(to) put one's foot down	conducir muy rápido
(to) ride two abreast	ir en bicicleta uno al lado del otro
(to) sort something out	clasificar algo, averiguar



Los ositos duermen en los árboles

A juzgar por la abundancia de los eucaliptus en Australia, se puede creer que el koala ha encontrado el lugar ideal para vivir y que no corre peligro de extinción por falta de alimento o por la desaparición de su hábitat exclusivo. Más bien fue la despiadada persecucción por parte del hombre lo que —hasta hace poco— puso seriamente en peligro su supervivencia. Actualmente, este pequeño marsupial de aspecto indefenso y somnoliento, pero de carácter arisco, ha encontrado refugio en numerosas reservas naturales, al amparo de los cazadores. Su timidez, y tal vez su sabio temor hacia el hombre, lo llevan a no aventurarse nunca por tierra firme y a desplazarse sólo de rama en rama.





rules of the road	reglamento de la circulación por carreteras
signpost	señal de tráfico
spanner	llave inglesa
technically	técnicamente
(to) tighten	apretar, estrechar
(to) toil	esforzarse
tough	duro, difícil
turning	curva
(to) twist	girar
way out	camino de salida
will	testamento
youth hostel	albergue juvenil
(to) zoom	salir disparado

Synonyms and antonyms

Leyendo esta Unidad habrá notado que el término ***way*** *aparece a menudo cuando se habla de viajes. Se puede usar cuando se pregunta qué dirección hay que tomar para llegar a un sitio determinado:* ***Could you tell me the way to Dead Man's Gulch?*** *Recuerde que* ***way*** *tiene un sentido muy amplio y no se debe utilizar cuando se habla de una carretera o de un sendero en particular. En estos casos, los términos apropiados son* ***road*** *y* ***path: The road which goes from St. Ives to Land's End is really difficult; The path finished at the edge of the cliff.***

Way *también aparece en diferentes locuciones, como por ejemplo* ***to lose one's way*** *(perderse):* ***We lost our way and ended up in Dry Rock, Nebraska.*** *Y cuando se viaja hacia un lugar determinado, la expresión adecuada es* ***to be on one's way to: We were on our way to Canterbury when we encountered a strange poet walking along the side of the road.***

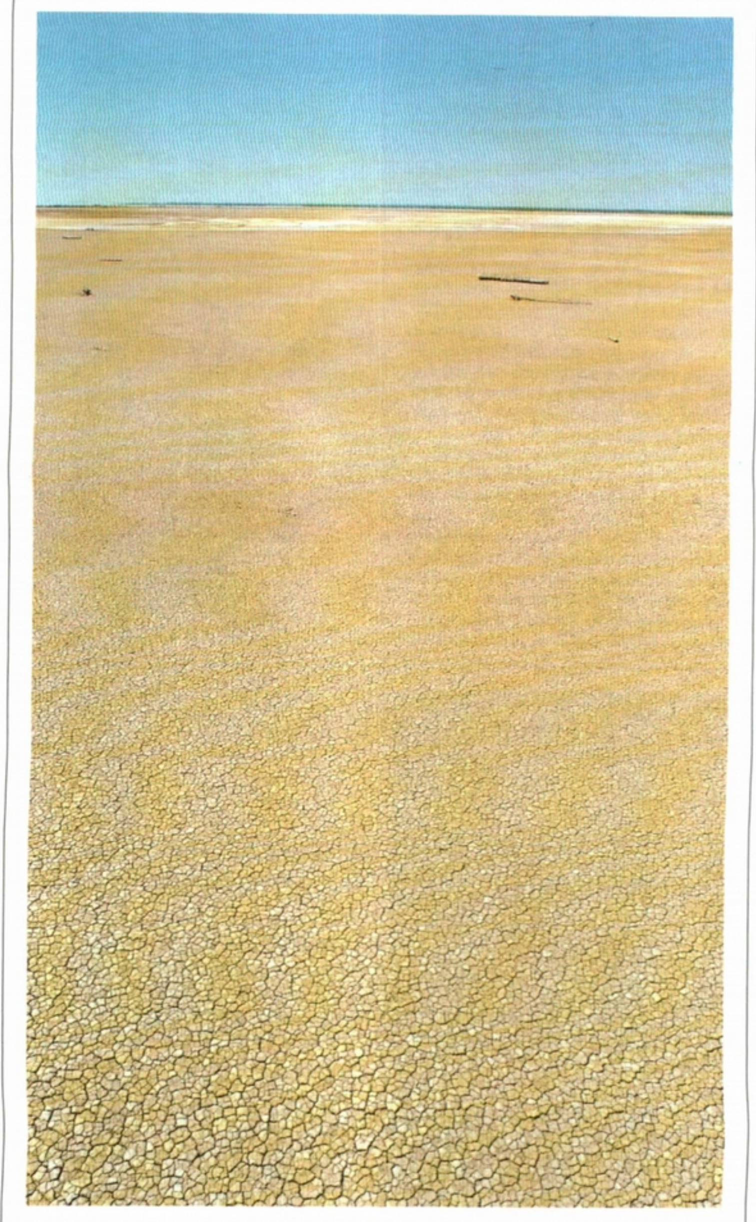




Después del puritanismo, la dulce embriaguez del vino

Hace tiempo, Adelaide, capital de Australia Meridional, era conocida como 'wowser's capital', es decir la capital de los puritanos y de los abstemios, y también como 'la ciudad de las iglesias'. Estas últimas permanecen, pero el puritanismo ha cedido con el tiempo, así como el hábito de no consumir alcohol. Como ejemplo de ese cambio puede mencionarse que cada dos años, en el vecino Barossa Valley (foto de al lado), uno de los valles más fértiles de la región, se celebra un festival del vino: en esta ocasión, el campo, de donde proviene un tercio de la producción vinícola nacional, une a los perfumes de la vendimia un ambiente del más puro estilo germánico. En efecto, en la región son numerosos los descendientes de colonos alemanes; y acaso sea este el secreto de su excelente vino.



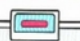


Un lago blanco que sabe a sal

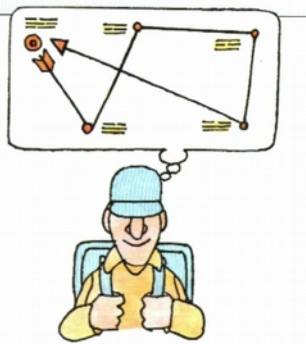
Si bien Australia Meridional es el estado más urbanizado de la federación (1.300.000 habitantes distribuidos entre Adelaide y otros centros menores de la región costera del sudeste), también aquí el territorio del interior es árido y probablemente aún más inhospitalario que en otras regiones. Yendo desde el océano hacia el norte, al adentrarse en una vasta depresión el paisaje se vuelve cada vez más yermo, hasta que aparecen los primeros lagos salados. El punto más deprimido de toda Australia es el lago Eyre (arriba), situado a 12 metros bajo el nivel del mar, cuya superficie completamente desecada está cubierta de sal, residuo de la fortísima evaporación.



Exercise 1



Este ejercicio es un dictado tomado de la sección READING. Escuche toda la grabación, luego vuelva a escucharla y transcriba el fragmento aparte. Después confronte lo que ha escrito con el texto que figura en las soluciones.

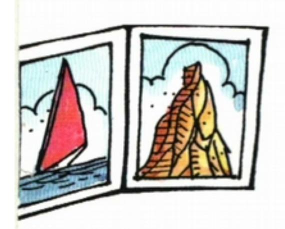


Exercise 2

Añada en estas frases la forma correcta del verbo entre paréntesis:

a) **I can't bear (to travel) with Richard.**
b) **He attempted (to fix) the puncture.**
c) **I propose (to take) the A38 to Indian Queens.**
d) **They intend (to cycle) all the way from Land's End to John O'Groats.**
e) **Let's try (to twist) the handlebars round.**
f) **I tried (to use) the gears to slow the car down.**
g) **I'm sorry (to say) the nearest service station is fifteen miles away.**
h) **I'm sorry for (to crash) your car the other day.**
i) **I saw their yacht (to sink).**

Exercise 3



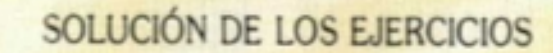
Observe atentamente el mapa de la zona en torno a Penzance. Se halla usted con el coche en Newbridge, en la carretera que lleva a Penzance. Está yendo en dirección sudeste. Escuche las indicaciones que le darán y sígalas. ¿Adónde llegará?

Exercise 4

Lea atentamente las siguientes frases y formule la pregunta correspondiente:

a) You are lost on the B3302 and you want to go to Redruth. You see a woman at the side of the road, and stop the car to ask for directions. What could you say?
b) You want to know the distance between St Ives and Land's End. What could you say?
c) You want to know the amount of time you will need to get to Lizard Point. What could you say?
d) Your car has broken down on the B3296 to Mullion, and you want to know if there is a service station in the area. Suddenly, you see a man on a bicycle coming towards you. You stop him and ask him. What could you say?
e) You are coming towards a roundabout. You want to go to a place called Pendeen, but you don't know which road is the right one. You stop a policeman and ask him. What could you say?

Exercise 5



Individualice los vocablos y las expresiones a las que se refieren las siguientes definiciones, teniendo presente que se trata de términos citados en esta Unidad.

a) The curved bar above the front wheel of a bicycle which controls the direction in which it goes.
b) A place where one road branches off from another.
c) A group of people who work on a ship or a yacht.
d) The part of a bicycle which is pressed by the foot to make it move.
e) To catch someone
f) To move over to the side of the road.
g) Further along the road.
h) A post which tells you in which direction roads go.
i) To drive very fast.
j) A very light wound.



SOLUCIÓN DE LOS EJERCICIOS

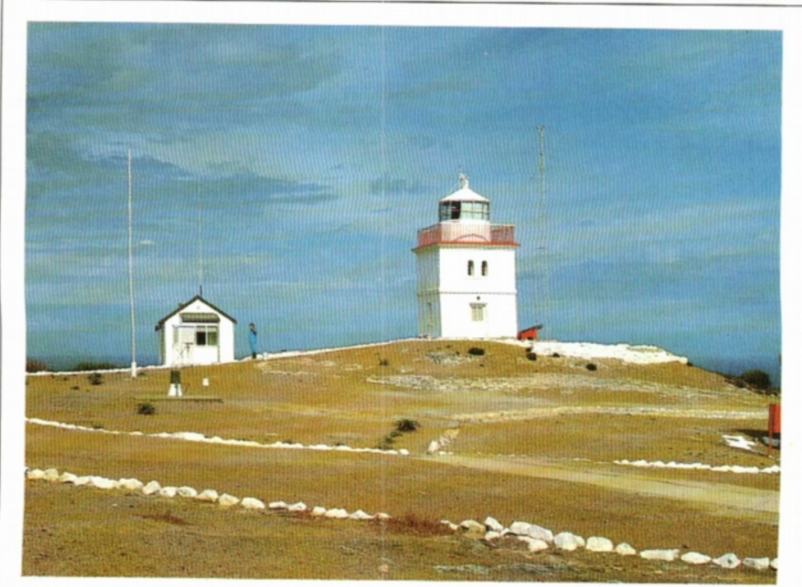
Exercise 1
He aquí el texto grabado: **The railways, too, go piercing through rock for miles and miles, and nobody thinks anything of it. The coast railway of Calabria, down to Reggio, would make us stand on our heads if we had it in England. Here it is a matter of course. In the same way I always have a profound admiration for their driving — whether of a great onmibus or of a motor-car. It all seems so easy, as if the man were part of the car.**

Exercise 2
a) **travelling** o **to travel**. b) **to fix** o **fixing**. c) **to take** o **taking**. d) **to cycle** o **cycling**. e) **twisting**. f) **to use**. g) **to say**. h) **crashing**. i) **sink**.

Exercise 3
A **Land's End**.
He aquí el texto del dictado: **Now, you're going to have to turn round and go back the way you came. After about three miles, you'll come to a fork in the road. Go left, and follow the road until St Just. There you have to turn left again onto the B3306. After a couple of miles it meets the A30. Turn right and keep on going for about four miles. You can't miss it.**

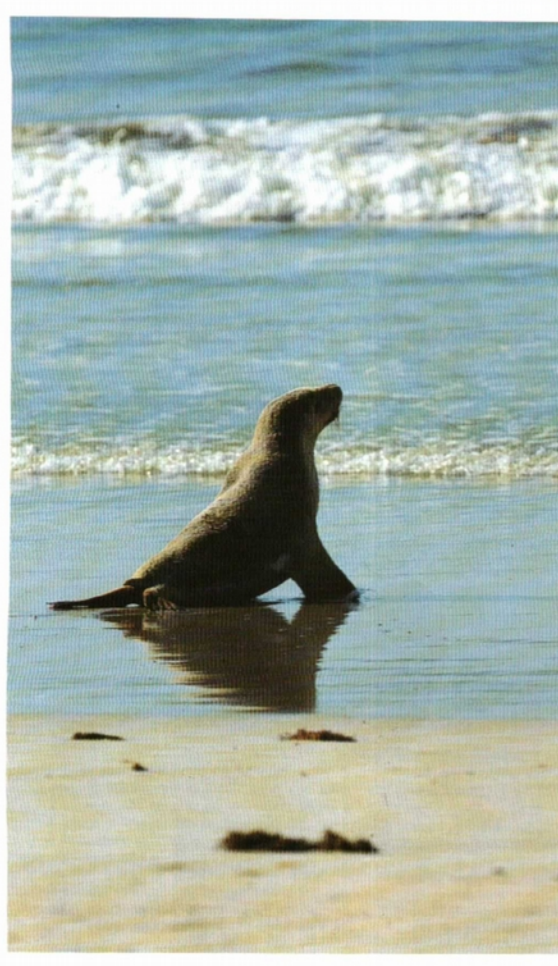
Exercise 4
a) **Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to Redruth?** o **excuse me, could you tell me the way to Redruth?** b) **How far is it from St Ives to Land's End?** c) **How long will it take to get to Lizard Point?** d) **Is there a service station near here?** e) **Excuse me, which is the turning** (o **exit**) **for Pendeen?**

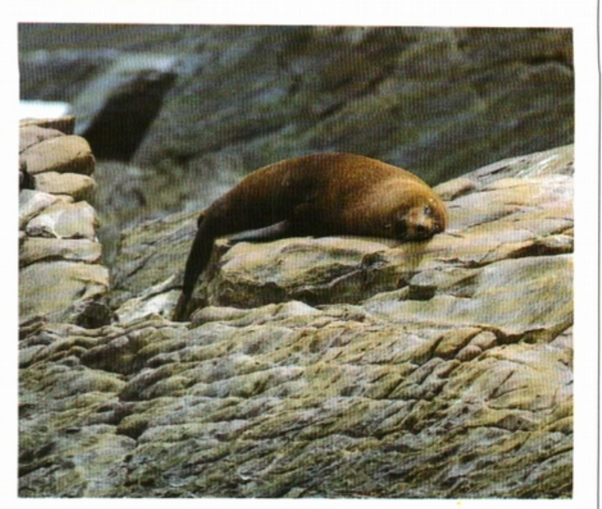
Exercise 5
a) **handlebars**. b) **turning**. c) **crew**. d) **pedal**. e) **to get one's hands on someone**. f) **to pull over**. g) **up the road**. h) **signpost**. i) **to put one's foot down**. j) **graze**.



La isla de los canguros

Diez kilómetros al sur de la península de Fleurier, frente a la bahía de Adelaide, se halla Kangaroo Island, la isla de los canguros, meta predilecta de los turistas de la capital. Sus centros de interés son las espléndidas y resguardadas playas del Norte y la naturaleza silvestre. La parte occidental de la isla está ocupada por el Flinders Chase Natural Park (foto de al lado), el parque más grande del estado, donde viven bellísimos ejemplares de koala, opossum y cerdo salvaje. No muy lejos, en Seal Bay, se pueden admirar hasta focas (abajo), que prefieren estas playas borrascosas del Sur, poco frecuentadas por los bañistas.







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